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IDEA-0570-67

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4 October 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Research and Development, OSA  
SUBJECT: Possible Problem in U-2R Pitch Trim System

1. During a recent visit to the U-2R Flight Test Site at Edwards Air Force Base, it was noted that the horizontal stabilizer which acts as the pitch trim control surface is powered by a single hydraulic actuator. There is no back-up system presently incorporated.
2. A pilot flying at maximum altitude with full up trim (normal position at maximum altitude) who experiences an engine failure, flameout or a hydro failure would find himself without the ability to change the pitch trim setting from the failed position. This could make things most difficult for the pilot, particularly on landing, if he were unable to overpower the trim force with manual control. This problem would be somewhat magnified in a dead-stick landing situation.
3. This has been discussed informally with [redacted] Detachment G flight test pilot, and he also expressed concern with this lack of redundancy.
4. The above information is forwarded for action deemed necessary by your staff.

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[redacted]  
Colonel. USAF  
Deputy for Materiel, OSA

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MD/M/OSA

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